

S. NEWS

Endorse l Race

Craigslist Founder Pledges Millions for U.S. Cybersecurity

By JULIET CHUNG

Craigslist founder Craig Newmark believes hacking by foreign governments is a major risk to the U.S. and plans to donate \$100 million to bolster the country's cybersecurity.

Half the money will go toward protecting infrastructure such as power grids from cyberattacks. The other half will go toward educating people about the importance of simple safeguards that are often ignored, such as using password managers and updating software.

"The country is under attack," said Newmark in an interview. He said those who are working to strengthen America's cybersecurity "need people to champion them."

Newmark, who is 71 years old, retired from Craigslist in 2018. He worries that connected products like household appliances are vulnerable to attacks that could, for example, cause simultaneous fires, overwhelming a fire department's ability to respond.

The commitment is part of Newmark's plan to give away nearly all his wealth.

Including the gift he

planned to announce Wednesday at the Aspen Cyber Summit in Washington, D.C., Newmark will have given or pledged to give more than \$400 million since he started Craig Newmark Philanthropies in 2015, largely to causes he views as protecting America. (He also donates to groups protecting pigeons, of which he is fond.)

Some recipients of the latest pledge have already been selected and notified, including a project affiliated with the University of Chicago's public policy school to recruit, train and deploy cybersecurity volunteers to strengthen local infrastructure. Another is Common Sense Media, a child internet-safety group.

"It's very much a David versus Goliath fight to work in the tech space when you're advocating on behalf of kids; tech has all the money," said Danny Weiss, chief advocacy officer of Common Sense Media, which is receiving \$2 million. "Craig's helping to level the playing field a little bit."

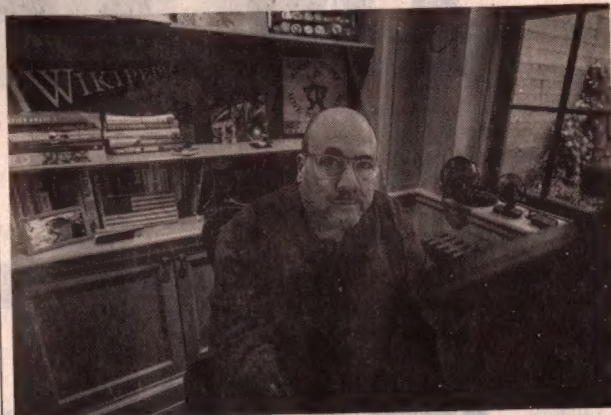
Most of the latest pledge—\$88 million—hasn't yet been committed. Groups can apply for funding on the philanthropy's website.

Republican convention in July.

O'Brien's efforts to address the Democratic National Convention were rebuffed. The Teamsters' leadership held private meetings with Trump earlier this year and Harris this week.

During their Monday meeting, O'Brien said union officials and Harris discussed legislation to expand unionization efforts and bankruptcy reform. Harris noted her work to protect the pensions of union workers and retirees and told O'Brien that she likely faced a 50-50 chance of gaining the union's endorsement, according to a person familiar with the discussion.

Harris and Trump have sought support among blue-collar voters, including in the battleground states of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Organized labor has shown signs of division, with many rank-and-file members backing Trump but the union's leadership siding with Harris.



Craigslist founder Craig Newmark, pictured in 2023, believes hacking by foreign governments is a major risk to the U.S.

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